XXIX.—Note on a Variation in the Number of Genital Pouches in Thalassema neptuni, Gaertner. By F. H. STEWART, M.A., Gatty Marine Laboratory, St. Andrews.

WHILE dissecting a specimen of *Thalassema neptuni*, Gaertner, I observed that it varied from the normal in possessing five genital pouches instead of four, one being placed in the middle dorsal line, the remaining four lying, as usual, two on each side. But on examination by means of sections the pouch which appeared to be median proved to belong to the right side and to correspond to the anterior pouch on the left. Behind these on the right side came an unpaired nephridium, followed by a second normal pair.

The question then arose, In what relations did the five nephridia of this specimen stand to the normal four? Was the unpaired pouch interpolated between the normal two pairs, or did it represent the second normal pair, the fourth and fifth pouches being an additional pair? It was obviously impossible to obtain any direct proof on this point; but in order to obtain some indication I measured the distances between the successive nephridiopores in the abnormal and in several normal specimens, at the same time taking the distance between the genital hooks and the first pair of nephridiopores as a standard of comparison. In the abnormal specimen the distances were as follows: -(a) Genital hooks to first pair of pores 5 millim. (b) First pair to unpaired ·25 millim. (c) First pair to second pair ·7 millim. The relation of distance (a) to distance (b) is thus 2:1, while that of (a) to (c) is 5:7.

In the normal specimens the relation of the averages of the distances were :--Distance of genital hooks from first pair of pores to distance between two pairs as 2 to 3, *i. e.* 5 to 75.



 $(\times = \text{genital hooks}; 0 = \text{nephridiopores.})$ 

This point is illustrated by the accompanying diagram.

It would appear from this comparison that the unpaired genital pouch is interpolated between the two normal pairs; and if this be granted it would have to be assumed either that a segment which does not normally bear pouches intervenes between the two which normally do, or that a partial duplication of the nephridia of one segment has occurred—a phenomenon which we find in its complete form in the family of the Capitellidæ.

Mr. Punnett, Assistant Professor of Natural History in the University of St. Andrews, who kindly gave me the abnormal and the various normal specimens, informs me that they were all obtained near Plymouth in the same locality. There can thus be no doubt that this case is an actual variation, not a local variety.

## XXX.—Description of a new Species of Buprestidæ. By CHAS. O. WATERHOUSE, V.P.E.S.

SPECIMENS of the species described below have been in the Museum collection for many years, separated as distinct from *Psiloptera quadrioculata*. A fresh specimen just brought from Upper Egypt by Mr. D. A. MacAlister shows that the differences between this and *P. quadrioculata* are constant, and I therefore venture to give it a name, and I propose to call it *P. MacAlisteri* after the donor.

## Psiloptera MacAlisteri, sp. n.

P. quadrioculatæ valde affinis; vitta obliqua thoracis, elytrorumque vitta laterali cupreo-rubris; corpore subtus tomento griseo-albo induto, utrinque maculis majoribus circularibus ornato.

Long. 20-27 mill.

Very similar to *P. quadrioculata*, but perhaps a little less convex. The general blackish-æneous colour is the same, but the impressions on the thorax and lateral stripe of the elytra are coppery red. The front of the head is clothed with pale yellow pile. The thorax is moderately closely and strongly punctured, with a slight raised median line, and four rotundate, smooth, black spots as in *P. quadrioculata*, but the rugose surface surrounding them is coppery red and forms a distinct oblique band from the anterior spot to the base, leaving a triangular space at the posterior angle slightly